

TRIMIUM BREVICORNE REICH. (COL.: PSELAPHIDAE)
REDISCOVERED IN YORKSHIRE

By K.N.A. ALEXANDER *

A single specimen of this very rare beetle was found beneath a loose rock in the coastal undercliffs of The Coomb, Ravenscar, N.E. Yorks (NZ 984019) on 27.vii.1987. This species was last recorded in Yorkshire in 1901 by E.G. Bayford — “one, probably under bark, near Doncaster, in a locality now built over” (Pearce, 1957). There are earlier records from the County: “Scarborough, in some numbers on North Cliff in moss” (T. Wilkinson and R. Lawson, in Walsh and Rimington, 1956), and also “Bishop’s Wood” by E.A. Waterhouse (Pearce, 1957), presumably the Bishop Wood near Selby.

Outside of Yorkshire Fowler (1889) lists Norfolk, Suffolk and Lincolnshire, and Fowler and Donisthorpe (1913) add Chiddingfold, Surrey, and Cobham Park, Kent. The only other record since then, to my knowledge is that of R.A. Crowson (in Welch & Harding, 1974). Dr Crowson has told me that his was a single specimen, collected on April 12th 1960, extracted by Tullgren funnel from a sample of rather deep oak litter. He further commented that the Continental records indicate a considerable variety of habitats including associations with ants. The rock under which my specimen was found lay within sparse, acidic grass heath vegetation on a stable scree slope beneath high sandstone cliffs. The locality has a good variety of ants present, including *Leptothorax acervorum* F., *Myrmica ruginodis* Nyl. and *Formica lemani* Bondri., although none of these were beneath the rock in question.

A whole specimen is illustrated by Pearce, but the detail of the strikingly unusual antennae is not shown. Mr D.K. Clements has very kindly provided drawings of the head and antenna (figure 1) together with the same for *Euplectus kirbyi* Denny (figure 2) for comparison.

Acknowledgements

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References

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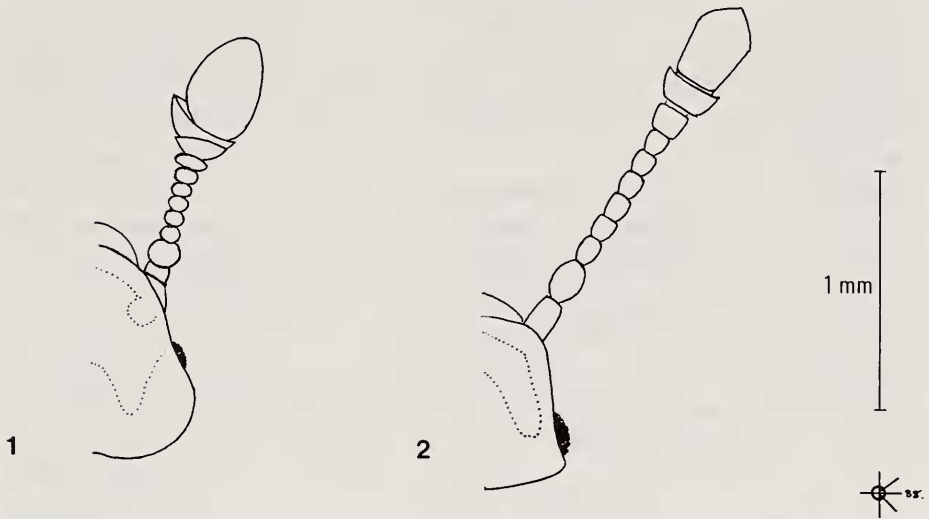


Fig. 1. *Trimium brevicorne*: head with antenna, dorsal view.

Fig. 2. *Euplectus kirbyi*: head with antenna, dorsal view.

[Unless the record 'Bishop's Wood' is known to relate to Yorkshire, I am of the opinion that it must be referred to the locality of that name near Highgate and Hampstead, Middlesex: this would have been a likely place for E.A. Waterhouse, as a London-based entomologist, to visit. J.F. Stephens had already recorded the species from the metropolitan district, besides Norfolk, Suffolk, and Lincs. Dr Crowson's 1960 capture was at Staverton Park, near Woodbridge. Wilkinson and Lawson, it might be added, were noted for their discovery of a whole series of rare beetles in the Scarborough district during the previous century, of which *T. brevicorne* is one; this is the source of most specimens in our collections. Leaving out of account the ancient London record(s), the species seems confined to the eastern strip of the country from Kent to Yorks, in which the only county so far without a record is Essex. — A.A.A.]

